

Story #232

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The Two Half-Sisters

Once in the old times there was a man who had a wife. She had a daughter and he had a daughter. His daughter was a very beautiful girl, but her daughter was not beautiful--she was ugly, and what is more, she was a bad-tempered girl.

*stepmother - daughter*  
The mother and her daughter were jealous of the beautiful one and they did not want to have her around, so they made the father take her to the forest and leave her there. So the father took the girl out to the forest on a mountain and told her, "I shall be around here cutting wood. You must wait for me here."

*Mountain*  
Then what he did was to get an empty pumpkin. He tied the pumpkin on a pine tree so that when the wind blew, the dried pumpkin knocked against the tree and made a TUM TUM TUM sort of noise. When her father did not return, the girl began to wail,

My daddy who makes the TUM TUM TUM,

Do not go away. Please let me come

She cried and cried, and finally she started on her way home by herself.

On her way she met a wolf, and the wolf said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way.

The wolf said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way."

"Yes," she said, "I shall gladly kiss your forefeet and your hind feet, if you will only show me my way." And she did, and the wolf showed her her way.

*Amish* *lefful* 82-85

A little bit farther on, she met a (rabbit), and the rabbit said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The rabbit said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way

"Yes," she said, "I shall gladly kiss your forefeet and your hind feet, if only you will show me my way." And she did, and the rabbit showed her her way.

And a little farther on as she went along she met a fox, and the fox said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The fox said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way."

"Yes," she said, "I shall gladly kiss your forefeet and your hind feet, if only you will show me my way." And she did, and the fox showed her her way.

And a little farther on, she came upon a brook. And the brook said, "Where are you going, sister?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way

The brook said, "If you sweep my sides here and there, and make me all nice and clean, I shall show you your way."

She swept the sides of the brook here and there, and made it all nice and clean, and the brook showed her her way. And what is more, the brook gave her a trunk full of goods cloth and dresses and everything beautiful. She started on her way, with the trunk full of goods on her back, and finally she came to her own house.

When she came near, the dog heard her, and "Wow wow!" he barked. sister is coming."

And the stepmother said, "How can she be coming, you silly dog? My husband left her in the forest all by herself."

But the dog said again, "Wow wow! My sister is coming." *Am I speaking sense  
language*

The stepmother repeated again, "You silly dog, how can she be coming?" And she became so angry at the dog that finally she hit him on the head and killed him. A moment later she looked up and saw her stepdaughter coming, with a great trunk of goods on her back. When the girl showed her stepmother and stepsister the beautiful things that were in the trunk, nothing would do but for the ugly one to get a trunk herself.

The next morning the father took the ugly girl out to the same place in the forest and left her there, with the same pumpkin beating TUM TUM TUM on the pine tree.

The ugly girl started on her way home. On her way, she met a wolf, and the wolf said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The wolf said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way."

"No," she said, "I shall not kiss your forefeet and your hind feet. I shall find my way by myself. And small thanks to you!"

She walked and walked, and finally she met a rabbit. The rabbit said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The rabbit said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way."

"No," she said, "I shall not kiss your forefeet and your hind feet. I shall find my way by myself. And small thanks to you!"

She walked and walked and walked, and finally she met a fox. The fox said, "Where are you going?"

She answered, "I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The fox said, "If you will kiss my forefeet and my hind feet, I shall show you your way."

"No," she said, "I shall not kiss your forefeet and your hind feet. I shall find my way by myself. And small thanks to you!"

She walked and walked and walked, and at last she came upon a brook. The brook said, "Where are you going, sister?"

The girl answered, "I am not your sister. But I have lost my way, and I am trying to find my way."

The brook said, "If you sweep my sides here and there, and make me all nice and clean, I shall show you your way."

"Why should I sweep your sides, and make you nice and clean?" the girl said. "I shall find my way myself, and small thanks to you!"

But the brook gave her a trunk, anyway, even larger than the one her step-sister had, and she carried the trunk on her back and went on her way.

At last she came to her house, and her stepsister and her mother came to meet her. But when the beautiful girl wanted to see what was in the trunk, her stepmother said, "Go aside. This one is hers." And they went into the house and locked the door to open the trunk.

But inside the trunk were snakes and all kinds of poisonous things, and they came out and made an end to the two of them. And the beautiful girl and her father lived happily ever after.